

Appl. No. 10/707,809

Amdt. dated December 10, 2004

Reply to Office action of September 10, 2004

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph 2 with the following amended paragraph:

The invention relates to a lockout security device, and more particularly to a lockout security device for valve handles and electrical cords or plugs.

Please replace paragraph 5 with the following amended paragraph:

The present invention provides a lockout device that prevents unauthorized access to a gate valve, electrical connection or other apparatus. The lockout device provides a means for installing the lockout device in confined areas. The lockout device can further be stored when not in use in such a manner that limits the amount of spaced use.

Please replace paragraph 6 with the following amended paragraph:

In one embodiment of the present invention the lockout device includes two pieces that nest together in a telescoping relationship and encases and prevents access to and tampering with a gate valve, electrical connection or other apparatus.

Please replace paragraph 21 with the following amended paragraph:

Herein, a half cylinder is defined as a hollow shape described by the side of a rectangle rotated approximately 180° around its parallel side as-axis (a cylinder is defined as a solid figure described by the side of a rectangle rotated 360° around its opposite side as-axis). A half cylinder has a radius, which is defined by the length of one of the pair of opposite sides of the rectangle that are perpendicular to the half cylinder's axis. A half cylinder also has a length, which is defined by the length of its axis. Herein, a half cylinder is "closed ended" if its two ends are covered by a flat surface, which is in the shape of a half circle. A cylinder is "open ended" if its ends are not covered.